Maclaren, Col Murray

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September 15th, 1916

Colonel Murray Maclaren, C.M.G., D.D.M.S.,

86 Strand,

London, W.C.

My dear Colonel Maclaren:

Professor J. J. Mackenzie has just got back from Salonica having spent a month or longer time in London, when I think he saw you. It is after conversation with him that I am writing you now.

As you are probably aware the Canadian No.4 General Hospital (University of Toronto) was raised and equipped by the University of Toronto and the words I think have always been attached to its designation. It has made, I am justified in stating, a very fine record for itself, as well it might because it was manned by some of the best of our staff and was equipped in a most liberal way by the Alumni and friends of the University. A keen interest has continued to be maintained in this university hospital. I regret, however that from indications that I have received there seems to be an impression that the University is losing interest in the Hospital, which is thoroughly erroneous. I fancy that this impression has been created largely because of late changes have been made in the personnel of the Hospital without any consultation of the University. In providing this Hospital it was distinctly understood that all appointments and changes would only be made after consultation with the University. You can easily see

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that this is necessary if we are to retain our interest in it, and it would be to us a matter of the deepest regret were the Hospital that has made such a reputation for itself and that has been so well manned to gradually slip away from our control and lose its quality. If the Medical Authorities in London were to let us know when changes are to be made we could supply graduates of the University in whom we would have full confidence as being able to maintain the standards that have been already set.

I write this note to you privately as an old friend, and I do not wish you to take any official action as a result of it, but with the hope that now that you have come into this position you will endeavour to keep the Hospital in as close touch as possible with us by following out the agreement on which the Hospital was raised. I know that you have had nothing to do with this personally, and therefore you will be all the freer to introduce any change that has crept in.

Allow me to say how delighted I have been to see the recognition that has come to you in return for your splendid service since the beginning of the war. It must be a great satisfaction to you to have been able to do what you have done, and it is a satisfaction to your friends that your work has been recognised.

I suppose you have seen Lt.-Colonel John Stewart occasionally, and our Colonel Cameron. By the way if Colonel Cameron comes to see you and is of opinion that his work at Orpington is completed and wishes to return to Toronto, will you tell him that you know that we shall be glad to have him recalled and take the necessary action if you judge it is right to do so ? With kind regards, I am, Yours sincerely,